

49. A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is symmetric about an axis extending laterally across said stent body.

50. A stent as in claim 44 wherein a shape of said side opening prior to expansion of said stent body is generally the same as said side opening shape after expansion of said stent body.

51. A stent as in claim 44 wherein a shape of said side opening remains generally constant during radial expansion of said stent body.

52. A stent as in claim 44 wherein an area of said side opening remains generally constant during expansion of said stent body.

53. A stent as in claim 44, wherein said side opening is adapted to expand when said stent body is radially expanded, and said side opening is adapted to further expand generally independent of said stent body radial expansion.--

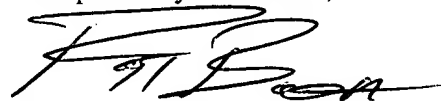
REMARKS

Claims 2-21 have been canceled and claims 22-53 have been added.

Examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger T. Barrett
Reg. No. 41,599

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (303) 571-4000 (in Denver, CO)
Fax: (303) 571-4321 (in Denver, CO)
RTB:sm DE 7019589 v1